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SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Oh we're not?

SENATOR BEREUTER: No, I think Senator Goodrich, for instance, on a visiting committee brought back an indication that we've designated a particular area areas of excellence, but we've only given it half enough money to do what they should be doing. What we.... The University has phased down the Areas of Excellence Program under the request and that's all I know.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well the budget now ... I can find no areas of excellence in this years budget. Is that.... So it is the recommendation of the Budget Committee not to continue areas of excellence. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEREUTER: No, I believe, and I hope that I'll be corrected by the members of the Committee if I'm wrong, I believe that what we're simply saying is we're giving to each chancellor a lump sum of money for education, research and extension, including in that would be continuation of the Areas of Excellence Programs on that particular campus.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But we are discontinuing a legislative appropriation for areas of excellence, so we no longer have an interest in that program.

SENATOR BEREUTER: No, we're not specifically recognizing it as such, but it's built into the budget amounts for UNL, for UNQ, for UNMC.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: So we are expanding Areas of Excellence this year?

SENATOR BEREUTER: We're continuing it. I don't know that we're expanding it.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well that's a very important question, Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Well I think that some other members of the Committee would be able to say if we're expanding or just continuing, if you'd like to....

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: The reason I asked the question, the reason it's an important question is that over the years I have attempted to explore Areas of Excellence to determine what it was designed to do. Basically, what I was told repeatedly, not only in Areas of Excellence but the item labeled "Improved Student-Teacher Contact", was that it was designed to hire additional faculty in various areas. I demanded to know what number of faculty were to be hired each year. Now if we are expanding that and it's not in here so that I can see it, and in addition to that we're adding another \$800,000 appropriation to add faculty, first of all I'd like to know how many faculty you're going to add with your \$800,000 and how many on top of Areas of Excellence and expansion of Areas of Excellence? Because, Senator Bereuter, according to the figures that I have the Legislature has been most generous in expanding undergraduate education or teacher opportunities in undergraduate through the Areas of Excellence and through student-teacher contact to the tune of \$800,000 in '75-'76, \$922,000 in '74-'75. Now